

## **ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

**March 2014**

**Judy Mathiau**

**Inventory Update Project** – As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, we had received more than 1,500 responses from homeowners! I give a huge pat on the back to those who have submitted their forms and took the time to really participate in this project. I will be reviewing each form and comparing the information to the data we have currently. The most common update is replacement of their asphalt shingled roof to a metal roof. The most common correction is number of bedrooms.

**Summit Natural Gas** – We have not received information on the value or placement of the transmission line through Winslow but expect to hear from them on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>. Meanwhile, the assessors will be meeting again with Summit representatives to discuss a license agreement between Summit and the municipalities for use of the GIS Shape files prepared by Summit. This data would be used in our existing GIS program in order to view the actual placement and type of pipeline and distribution, as well as stations.

**Personal Property Assessment** – The forms were mailed to all known businesses in Winslow, including apartment buildings with 4 or more units. The due date is May 1<sup>st</sup> and we have started to receive their declarations of equipment.

**Annual Property Tax School** – this year, the weeklong school session will be at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. I have been asked to present, along with Mike Duguay of Summit, on the pipeline project. My contribution will be the planning and establishment of the area assessors and our unified approach to communication and assessment, working with Summit. Also, I will be teaching a one day class along with a colleague, on the Basic Application of Assessing – this class will be geared towards the first time assessor so that they apply their “book knowledge” in a real office setting.

**Vision Government Solutions** - The IT department, along with the Vision company has installed an upgraded version of the assessment software. There are several new tools and updates to existing functions that are much more efficient. I will be attending the Vision Users Group Conference in May, which will be held in CT.

**Real Estate Market** - I attended a very informative meeting with the mid coast assessors. Martin Cates, a long time realtor in the mid coast area spoke about the market. The larger second home sales have been almost non-existent, however, more of the smaller homes and condos are on the rise and they are sometimes purchased as vacation homes. There are also pockets of very specialized property that are not affected. Martin felt that we should see more activity state wide by the end of 2014.